



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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Sudan and the international community

- Defense Minister Abdel Raheem Hussain stated yesterday that "due to Sudan's tremendous potential, the United States, European countries and Israel want to destroy and divide Sudan into five countries - an independent Darfur, the South, the East, the Nubian State and Central Sudan." Hussein further argued that "The international community does not think we deserve this potential. If the Americans or Europeans decide unilaterally to send forces into Sudan and if it comes to that, we will fight it, be it the Americans or Europeans. We will fight it." (Gulf News, Al-Wihda)

President Al-Bashir holds talks with Eritrean counterpart

- President Al-Bashir held talks yesterday with visiting Eritrean President Issaias Afeworki. They discussed bilateral relations, the crisis in Darfur, and means to expedite the implementation of the East Sudan agreement. (*Al-Hayat, Al-Rai Al-Aam, et al*)

UN Secretary General: CPA is in danger

- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stated in a report yesterday that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) has reached a delicate stage, with the need to deploy UN peacekeeping forces. Ban called on the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to do everything within their power to redeploy forces as required and to work towards the holding of free and fair mid-term elections in 2009. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Turabi: UN Support Packages will not resolve Darfur crisis

- Opposition leader Hassan Al-Turabi argued yesterday that a UN support package to help AU troops in Darfur will not stop the violence in Darfur. Al-Turabi added that Sudan's acceptance of the package was an indication that Khartoum could ultimately agree to a larger U.N. presence: "The government, under pressure, agreed to this but those 3,000 will prepare for the larger (UN) force of 20,000. The government has conceded a bit so it will have to concede more." (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Ayaam, et al*)

British White Nile Oil Company begins operations in South Sudan

- The British oil company White Nile has started drilling its first well in a disputed 67,000 square km (25,870 sq mile) bloc in South Sudan with French Total Company. White Nile's chief operations officer in South Sudan said that drilling had started last Thursday on the well, in a remote and "extremely challenging" area 200 km north of the southern capital of Juba. The project is due to be completed within 29 days. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Quote of the Day

"The deployment of UN forces to Darfur is a form of anesthesia and not a cure to the crisis." – Opposition leader Hassan Al-Turabi

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